

**T E C H N I C A L   B R I E F**

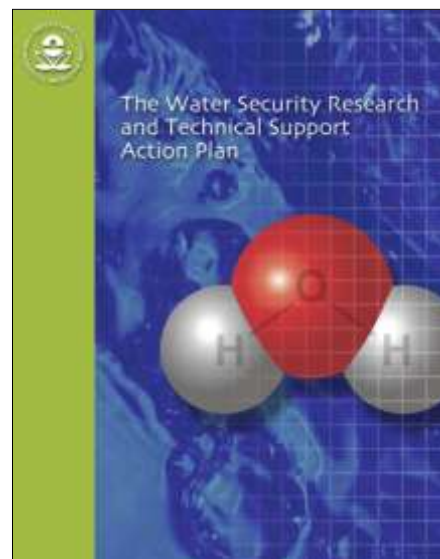
## National Homeland Security Research Center Seeks Ongoing Peer Review by National Research Council

EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC) and the National Research Council (NRC) have again joined forces to help protect the nation's drinking water. This time, the NRC's Water Science and Technology Board (WSTB) will work with NHSRC to provide peer review for research and technical needs as they apply to water security issues.

### Background

NHSRC, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, conducts ongoing applied research and technology testing to provide scientifically sound information regarding water security for the EPA as well as water utilities, public health officials, emergency response personnel, and others. The information is used to prevent or mitigate a range of potential threats to the nation's water infrastructure.

In order to facilitate the planning of research and eventual distribution of research findings, NHSRC jointly developed the Water Security Research and Technical Support Action Plan with the Water Security Division of EPA's Office of Water. The action plan outlines a series of water security issues and describes projects to address them. That plan was originally reviewed by an expert panel of the NRC's WSTB in 2003.



### The Review

NHSRC has again asked NRC to provide peer review of homeland security efforts related to drinking water and wastewater systems. This time, NHSRC is asking the WSTB to help the center plan future activities by providing advice on priorities for short- and long-term research and by identifying opportunities for improved coordination and communication of water security related research. The WSTB has assembled a committee of experts that will gather information, deliberate on critical issues, and prepare reports containing their recommendations. This ongoing partnership between NRC and NHSRC will result in periodic written reports that will be used by EPA and other federal and state agencies to plan for and address water security activities. The project is currently underway and is expected to continue for several years.

### Expected Results

EPA, delegated by the President of the United States as the lead agency responsible for protecting the nation's water infrastructure, will benefit from the independent review offered by the expert WSTB panel. NHSRC will continue to benefit as it plans and conducts research and technology testing related

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to water security. Other governing bodies will benefit by having national experts focused on water security issues. The primary goal is to continue to protect citizens of the United States and maintain a safe and secure water infrastructure system.

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